

chosen route, and the frequencies of administration associated with the medication and a chosen route; and

receiving from the user an input accepting an electronic order including the user selected medication, frequency of administration, route of administration, dose amount and dose form.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

interactively receiving an input from the user selecting when the medication should be administered, and whether a generic substitute is acceptable for the medication; and sending the order electronically to a pharmacy.

4. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

determining which ordering alternatives to display to a user by accessing an electronic database of associations comprising an association of routes with medications, an association of routes with medications and routes with dose forms, and an association of routes and medications with frequencies of administration.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the database of associations contains a record for each available combination.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the medication order is represented by an electronic order record comprising:

a name of the medication;

- a unique medication identifier;
- a medication dose size;
- a medication route of administration;
- a medication form; and
- a medication daily frequency.

7. A system for creating an electronic prescription for a patient, comprising:
 - a receiving component for interactively receiving an input from a user selecting a medication;
 - a displaying component for displaying to the user alternative elements for creating an electronic order for the currently selected medication, the alternative elements including the routes associated with the medication, the dose amounts in which the medication is available for a chosen route, the dose forms in which the medication is available for a chosen route, and the frequencies of administration associated with the medications and a chosen route; and

- a second receiving component for receiving from the user an input accepting an electronic order including the user selected medication, frequency of administration, route of administration, dose amount and dose form.

8. A method for creating an electronic medication order, comprising:
 - receiving an input from a user selecting a medication;
 - displaying to the user a plurality of routes in which the selected medication is available and receiving an input from a user selecting a route; and

displaying to the user a plurality of dose forms for the selected medication and route and receiving an input from a user selecting a dose form.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising receiving an input from the user accepting the electronic medication order including the user selected medication, route and dose form.

10. A method for creating an electronic medication order, comprising:
receiving an input from a user selecting a medication;
displaying to the user a plurality of routes in which the selected medication is available and receiving an input from a user selecting a route; and
displaying to the user a plurality of dose amounts for the selected medication and route and receiving an input from a user selecting a dose amount.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising receiving an input from the user accepting the electronic medication order including the user selected medication, route and dose amount.

12. A method for creating an electronic medication order, comprising:
receiving an input from a user selecting a medication;
displaying to the user a plurality of routes in which the selected medication is available and receiving an input from a user selecting a route; and

displaying to the user a plurality of frequencies for the selected medication and route and receiving an input from a user selecting a frequency.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising receiving an input from the user accepting the electronic medication order including the user selected medication, route and frequency.

14. A method for processing data relating to use of an index drug by a patient, comprising:

receiving the identity of an index drug;
receiving information about the patient; and
determining the dosage of the index drug on the basis of the information about the patient.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising determining an alternative drug to the index drug on the basis of the information about the patient.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising determining the dosage of the alternative drug on the basis of the information about the patient.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising determining the cost for the dosage of the alternative drug.

18. The method of claim 14 further comprising creating an electronic medication order for the index drug.

19. A method of claim 14, further comprising:

receiving a designation of a set of administered drugs;

receiving a designation of a set of drug allergies comprising drugs and drug categories; and

reporting possible allergic reactions to drugs in the set of administered drugs based on the set of drug allergies.

20. A method for processing data relating to use of an index drug by a patient, comprising:

receiving the identity of an index drug;

receiving information about the patient; and

reporting citations to published references relating to the index drug.

21. The method of claim 24 further comprising determining dosage of the index drug on the basis of the information about the patient.

Remarks

Consideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 2-21 have been added. Claims 2-21 are pending in this application.